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Redevelopment Board Minutes 08/30/2004

Arlington Redevelopment Board
August 30, 2004

Members Present: Nora Mann
 Roly Chaput
 Ed Tsoi

Also attending: Kevin J. O'Brien, Lynne Lowenstein, Joey Glushko at 9:20

Ed Tsoi called the meeting to order at 7:10. Laura Wiener presented a proposal for improving the signage at the Gibbs School building. The Board asked that she investigate another proposal from a sign company rather than from an architect.

Ed Tsoi next asked John Maher to explain the Town Meeting article to remove a land restriction from the Symmes property. John explained that it is a restriction owned by the Town and covered part of the property near Summer Street. He said it was now of no effect because the Town now owned the land, but that it made sense to remove it in order to have a clear title.

Kevin O'Brien described to the Board a series of meetings in which it was proposed that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) be given the task for conducting a peer review of the traffic study performed by Symmes Redevelopment Associates. The TAC would then report to the ARB. Nora Mann moved and Roland Chaput seconded a motion that the ARB solicit the assistance of the Transportation Advisory Committee to select in consultation with the ARB a peer review consultant to oversee the traffic study work done by the developer on the Symmes project and that the consultant will be hired through the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority; voted 3 to 0 in favor.

The Board next discussed the composition of the proposed Symmes Neighborhood Advisory Committee. It was agreed that Kevin O'Brien would rewrite the committee structure and send it to Terry Dash and Joe Curro.

Kelly Courtney, consultant to the Board suggested that there be a response to Andrew Fischer's letter to Town Meeting members. General discussion about the Symmes project followed. Ed Tsoi stated that the special permit process has not yet begun and that Town Meeting must vote on the project before it is designed. It was pointed out that the developer was changing the site plan slightly to avoid blasting and Ed Tsoi cautioned that they not try to resolve the design too completely before Town Meeting, it is more properly a subject for the special permit process.

The Board reviewed upcoming meetings in preparation for Town Meeting.

The Board approved minutes for July 12, July 19, and July 26.
The meeting adjourned at 10:30P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin J. O'Brien